KINGDOM
キングダム
男児剣指天下。
紀元前500年的大战争「春秋战国时代」
将天下的少年与年轻的一切
〈無名の少年〉
原泰久
I
単行本未収録の
読切2本収録!!
「キングダム外伝」
「蒲兵三百」
「金剛」
描下ろし
特別ピンナップ
付き!
激闘
総集編
NHK
TVアニメ絶賛放送中!!

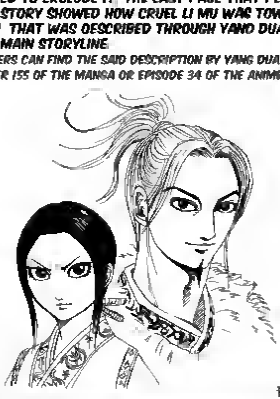
WORDS FROM THE AUTHOR, HARA YASUHISA, ON "LI MU"

DUE TO THE POPULARITY OF THIS SHORT STORY THAT I DREW, I GOT THE CHANCE TO PUBLISH THE MAIN STORY OF KINGDOM. I VAGUELY REMEMBER THAT SOMEONE TOLD ME NOT TO GIVE UP ON USING "KINGDOM" AS THE TITLE OF THE MANGA.

THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF THIS SHORT STORY ARE LI MU AND HAI YIN. I AM SURE MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT THESE TWO CHARACTERS APPEARED IN THE MAIN STORY OF KINGDOM. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME THINKING OF WAY TO INTRODUCE THESE TWO CHARACTERS INTO THE MAIN STORY. IF THEY WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE MAIN STORY FROM THE BEGINNING, IN WHICH YIN ZHENG WAS THE PROTAGONIST, THEY WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE INTRODUCED AS ANTAGONISTS. THE BACKGROUND STORY OF THESE TWO CHARACTERS HAS YET TO BE SHOWN IN THE MAIN STORY AND THEREFORE THIS STORY MIGHT BE ADDED INTO THE MAIN STORYLINE IN THE FUTURE. THEN AGAIN, IT IS QUITE AWKWARD TO ADD A PUBLISHED SIDE STORY INTO THE MAIN STORYLINE JUST LIKE THAT.

I WAS CONSIDERING WHETHER I SHOULD DRAW THE LAST PAGE OF THIS SHOAT STORY REGARDING THE HISTORICAL FACT THAT LI MU ANNIHILATED THE XIONG NUS WITH HIS ARMY IN THE NORTH. IN THE END, DUE TO THE NUMBER OF PAGES REQUIRED IN THIS SHORT STORY AND FOR THE SAKE OF A DRAMATIC PLOT IN THE MAIN STORY, I OFCIDED TO EXCLUDE IT. THE LAST PAGE THAT I LEFT OUT IN THIS SHORT STORY SHOWED HOW CRUEL LI MU WAS TOWARDS THE XIONG NUS. THAT WAS DESCRIBED THROUGH YANG DUAN HE'S WORDS IN THE MAIN STORYLINE.

*NOTE: READERS CAN FIND THE SAID DESCRIPTION BY YANG DUAN HE IN CHAPTER 155 OF THE MANGA OR EPISODE 34 OF THE ANIME.

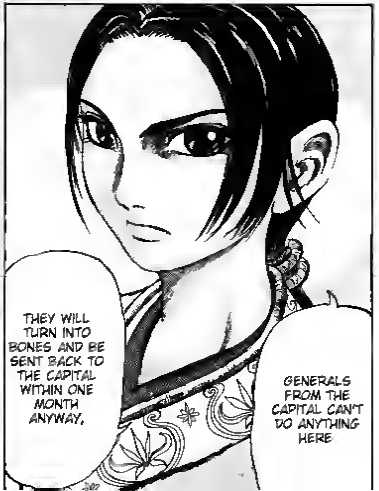


THAT WAS A PLACE CONSTANTLY BEING THREATENED BY THE WOLVES FROM THE NORTH, THE NOMADIC TRIBE, "XIONG NUS."
CHINA, ERA OF THE WARRING STATES. NORTH OF ZHAO, YAN MEN.
THE XIONG NUS CONSTANTLY RAIDED VILLAGES OF ZHAO, COMMITTING CRIMES, SUCH AS RAPING, KILLING AND ROBBING BEFORE LEAVING.
TODAY, ANOTHER GENERAL STARK WING AT YAN MEN, TO REPLACE THE GENERAL THAT WAS KILLED RECENTLY.
THE GENERALS, RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENDING YAN MEN WERE OFTEN KILLED IN BATTLES BY THE XIONG NUS. WHEN THAT GENERAL WAS KILLED, ANOTHER WOULD BE SENT TO TAKE HIS PLACE FROM THE CAPITAL, HAN DAN.

I AM REALLY EXCITED, HAI YIN.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF GENERAL WILL BE COMING HERE TODAY.
HA!

THERE IS NOTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

HAHA-HAHA, YOU ARE RIGHT!


THEY WILL TURN INTO BONES AND BE SENT BACK TO THE CAPITAL WITHIN ONE MONTH ANYWAY.
GENERALS FROM THE CAPITAL CAN'T DO ANYTHING HERE

李牧
～LIMU～

I WILL BE YOUR GENERAL HERE AT YAN MEN FROM TODAY ONWARDS.
MY NAME IS LI MU.

HMM ...

RISSATISFACTION
I CAN ALSO SEE THAT THE PEOPLE HERE ARE SUFFERING FROM THE ATTACKS OF THE XIONG NUS.
MOST OF YOU SEEM VERY EXPERIENCED
I SEE RAGE AND HATRED... TOGETHER WITH DETERMINATION AND BRAVERY ...

WE MIGHT EVEN SEE YOUR HEAD ROLL BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.
DO YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS A LIVING HELL?
HA.. HAHAHA I CAN SEE THAT OUR NEW GENERAL HERE HAS QUITE A MILD NATURE. DON'T WORRY, YOU WILL TURN INTO ONE OF US VERY SOON!..

HUH?
THAT GENERAL
What?
Do you think we are fools?

DON'T WORRY! YAN MEN MIGHT SEEM LIKE A HOPELESS PLACE, BUT THE WAY TO VICTORY IS VERY SIMPLE.

Hai Yin!

OHHHH... SO THERE IS A GIRL IN THE ARMY.

DID YOU SAY THAT THE WAY TO VICTORY IS SIMPLE? YOU ARE INDEED A GENERAL. IT SEEMS LIKE YOU ARE MUCH MORE EXPERIENCED THAT ANY OF US HERE.

Is there a problem ?!
うわっ
I'm the better than anyone here when it comes to sword fights !!!
...!!
NOPE... I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS RARE
FELL DOWN
SINCE YOU SAID THE SOLUTION TO VICTORY IS SIMPLE I ASSUME YOU HAVE A PLAN?
MY PLAN CONSISTS OF FOUR WORDS!
OF COURSE I DO!

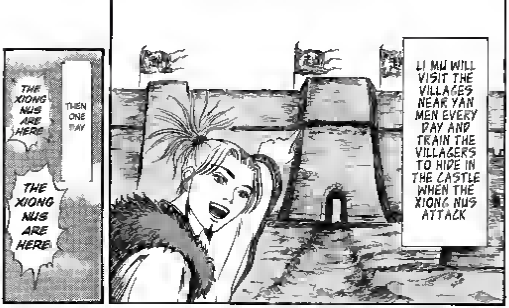
DO NOT FIGHT THEM!

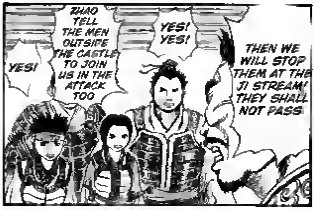
WHAT KIND OF PLAN IS THIS ?!

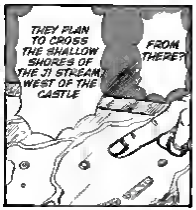
WHO THE HELL WOULD DO THAT!
HIDING IN THE CASTLE WHEN THE XIONG NUS ATTACK?!

THAT USELESS GENERAL !!!

HEY, LOOK AT THAT.
HOW WHAT?! CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO CALM DOWN?!
CALM DOWN, HAI YIN.
!
THAT'S GENERAL LI MU.
HUH?! STOP JOKING. MY ARROW MIGHT HIT SOMEONE ELSE OVER THERE.
ZHAO ...
IT SEEMS LIKE HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT IT. HE IS CONDUCTING DRILLS FOR THE VILLAGERS OVER THERE.
SHOOT HIM
I WAS JOKING, IDIOT!!!
THEN STOP TELLING ME WHAT TO DO!


THE XIONG NUS ARE HERE
THEN ONE DAY
THE XIONG NUS ARE HERE
LI MU WILL VISIT THE VILLAGES NEAR YAN MEN EVERY DAY AND TRAIN THE VILLAGERS TO HIDE IN THE CASTLE WHEN THE XIONG NUS ATTACK


ZHAO TELL THE MEN OUTSIDE THE CASTLE TO JOIN US IN THE ATTACK TOO
YES!
YES! YES!
THEN WE WILL STOP THEM AT THE JI STREAM! THEY SHALL NOT PASS

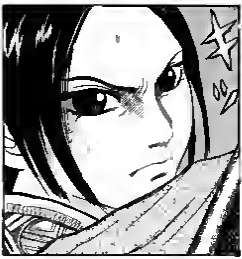

THEY PLAN TO CROSS THE SHALLOW SHORES OF THE JI STREAM, WEST OF THE CASTLE
FROM THERE?

HOLD ON!

YOU GUYS, STAY IN THE CASTLE TO PROTECT THE VILLAGERS, JUST IN CASE.
I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT.
THEY WILL BE FINE. THEY WILL EVACUATE INTO THE CASTLE BEFORE THE XIONG NUS ARRIVE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE MEN OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WILL BE KILLED IF WE DO NOT GO.
GENERAL, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
THAT'S AN ORDER!
BU-BUT
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
IF SOMEONE DISOBEYS SUCH A COWARDLY TACTIC...

!!!

EXECUTION!



ARE WE GOING TO SEE THE XIONG NU DESTROY OUR HOMELAND?

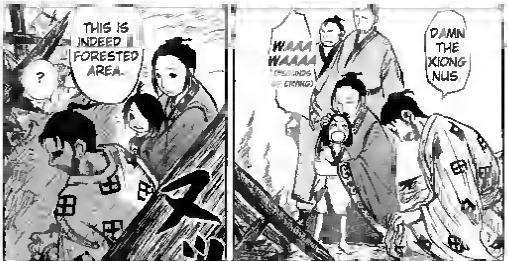
COME ON, HAI YIN, LET'S GO

DAMN. THE HUTS ARE EMPTY.
NOT ONLY PEOPLE, WE CAN'T EVEN FIND A GOAT.
JUST LIKE LI MU SAID THE VILLAGERS EVACUATED INTO THE CASTLE WITH THEIR LIVESTOCK AND VALUABLES BEFORE THE XIONG NUS ARRIVED

MY HUT IS BURNING!
AHH!
THE ZHAOS ARE ALL COWARDS!
THE ANGRY XIONG NUS COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING AND LEFT AFTER GETTING FIRE ON THE EMPTY HUTS.

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU, MY HOME IS ...
TIAN, STOP!
WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT THE XIONG NUS?
GENERAL! IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.

ARE YOU LISTENING GENERAL?!
ANSWER ME!
GENERAL THE VILLAGE CHIEF HAS REPORTED ZERO CASUALTIES
I SEE


THIS IS INDEED FORESTED AREA.
?
WAAA WAAAA (SOLDIERS CRYING)
DAMN THE XIONG NUS

WHAAA!!!
THERE ARE STURDY TREES EVERY-WHERE AND THEY CAN BE USED TO REBUILD YOUR HOMES.
...!!!
GENERAL
ゴクリ

QUICK! GO TO THE CASTLE!
THE XIONG NUS ARE COMING.
LATER... 1 MONTH
THE XIONG NUS ARE HERE
THE XIONG NUS DECIDED TO GO TO THE CASTLE AFTER RAIDING EMPTY VILLAGES
LOOK AT YOUR COWARDLY FACES.
THE ZHAOS ARE A BUNCH OF COWARDS.

HA! YIN
YOUR PARENTS WILL WEEP IN THEIR GRAVES IF THEY SEE YOU!! HAHAHA
OPEN THE GATES! I AM GOING OUT TO SLAY THOSE BASTARDS!
NO! STOP! THE GATES MUST NOT BE OPENED. THAT'S AN ORDER FROM THE GENERAL!

I WILL KILL YOU IF YOU DO NOT OPEN THE GATE...
THERE IS NO POINT IN OBEYING THAT ORDER!
ぐっ
!!!
?!
ドッ
三王

GENERAL, SIR... PLEASE DO NOT EXECUTE HER...
HAI YIN ...

THROW HER IN JAIL.

HAI YIN'S PARENTS WERE SLAUGHTERED BY THE XIONG NOS WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG.

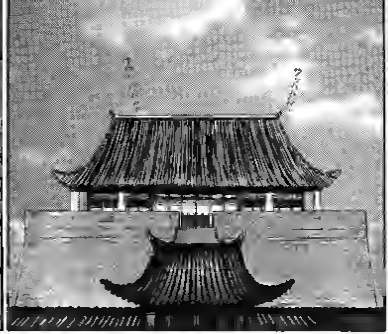
...I SAW THAT IN HER EYES WHEN WE FIRST MET.
I KNEW THAT LONG AGO...

I HAVE GOOD NEWS. YOU WILL NOT BE EXECUTED AND WILL BE RELEASED TOMORROW.
I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU, HAI YIN.
HE IS INDEED A GOOD MAN.

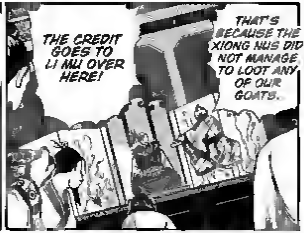
HAI YIN.

THEY ARE SMILING.
HUH?
SMILE ...
I WILL KILL EVERY XIONG NU I SEE.
THAT WAS WHAT I SWORE AT MY PARENTS' GRAVES.
HOW CAN I LET THEM OFF?
THEY WERE INSULTING MY PARENTS AND I COULDN'T DO A THING!
ゴッ
HAI YIN
DAMN!
DAMN!
DAMN! WHAT IS THAT GENERAL THINKING!
THEY WERE LAUGHING ...
MY PARENTS WERE INSULTED AND I...

THE HERDERS HAVE EARNED MORE THIS YEAR THAN ANY OF THE PAST 30 YEARS!



Not... even... one...
AHAHAHAH (SOUNDS OF WEEPING)
That's not all! None of our men have died on the battlefield ever since Li Mu became our general.

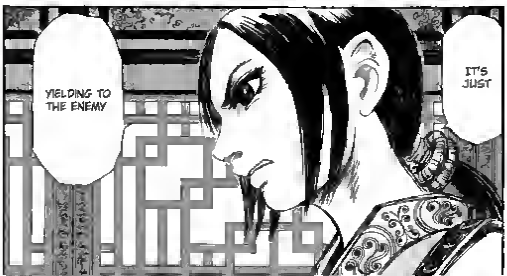

THE CREDIT GOES TO LI MU OVER HERE!
THAT'S BECAUSE THE XIONG NUS DID NOT MANAGE TO LOOT ANY OF OUR GOATS.

THE XIONG NUS RARELY EVEN APPEAR NOWADAYS
CHANG CHUNG IS RIGHT. THE GENERAL'S TACTIC IS SLIGHTLY UNDERHANDED BUT WE DID NOT LOSE ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN OUR HUTS.

YOU DRANK TOO MUCH, CHANG CHUNG!
IT'S A MIRACLE, IT'S A MIRACLE!
Thwaaaaap
Yoouu!
Geeerrrreeerr
Yeah!

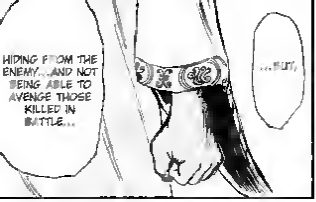
IN SOME SENSE WE'VE WON
HOHOHO. WE'VE WON
HAHAHA. THEY ARE JUST LIKE HUNGRY STRAY DOGS THAT FAILED TO FIND FOOD IN TOWN
DID YOU SEE THE EMPTY-HANDED XIONG NUS?!

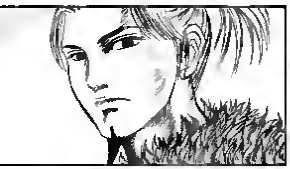
HAI YIN!
WHAT KIND OF VICTORY IS THIS!


YIELDING TO THE ENEMY
IT'S JUST

ヨロッ
HUI YIN ...
.....
THIS IS NOT EVEN A VICTORY!

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS VICTORY OVER HERE AT YAN MEN
TURNS HEAD
YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT VICTORY?
HUH?!
WE HAVE NEITHER HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS NOR CAVALRIES, NOR CHARIOTS, NOR ARCHER BATTALIONS OVER HERE
WITH WHAT WE HAVE HERE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEAT THE 100 000 STRONG XIONG NU ARMY
INDEED YAN MEN IS A DESOLATED PLACE WHEN IT COMES TO ATTACKING THE XIONG NUS ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS ALSO THE BEST PLACE TO DO THE OPPOSITE
SINCE WE CANNOT DEFEAT THE XIONG NUS WE SHOULD DEFEND WITH ALL WE'VE GOT MOREOVER WHILE THE XIONG NUS MAY BE UNMATCHED WHEN THEY ARE ON THEIR HORSES THEY ARE HOWEVER USELESS WHEN IT COMES TO ATTACKING A CASTLE
THEREFORE, I HAVE TO GO ON AN ALL-OUT DEFENCE I WILL NOT GIVE IN TO THEIR TAUNTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE LIVES OF MY COMRADES
THIS IS MY MISSION HERE


HIDING FROM THE ENEMY...AND NOT BEING ABLE TO AVENGE THOSE KILLED IN BATTLE...
...RUN?



WON'T WE LOSE OUR PRIDE AND DIGNITY AS A ZHAO?!

HAHAHA
IS THERE A PROBLEM ?!

Stares

HE EVEN LOST HIS BROTHERS ON THE BATTLEFIELD
JUST LIKE YOU, HE LOST HIS PARENTS IN A WAR.
HE WAS AROUND YOUR AGE TOO
THE DIFFERENCE WAS THAT HE WAS A MAN
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS SOMEONE WITH THOSE VENGEFUL EYES. JUST LIKE YOURS
AMING?
HE BECAME ANGRY AND HOT-TEMPERED. AN ATMOSPHERE OF EVIL AND DARKNESS
HE IGNORED THE ORDERS FROM HIS CAPTAIN AND RECKLESSLY ATTACKED THE ENEMY'S BASE.
WHAT!
THAT ONLY HAPPENED TO THE ENEMIES.
DID THEY ALL LOSE THEIR LIVES?

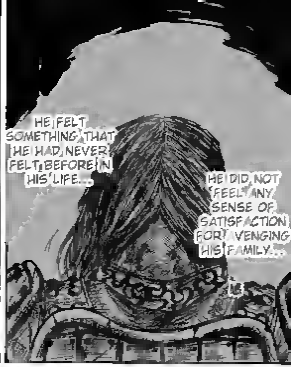
BY THE TIME HE CAME BACK TO HIS SENSES, THE HEAD OF THE ENEMY GENERAL WAS ALREADY ON THE GROUND
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SLASHED BY SWORDS AND PIERCED BY SPEARS AND ARROWS, HE CONTINUED TO RIDE ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD SLAYING ENEMIES WITH HIS SPEAR.
HE WENT INTO A TRANCE AND HIS SPEAR DID NOT STOP KILLING.

Pant
Pant
Pant
GUYS, I DID IT!
I DID IT!

WOW...

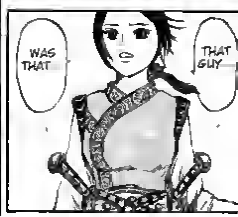
HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO REPLY. EVERYONE DIED.
HIS COUSIN, QI, HIS NEIGHBOUR, WANG, HIS BEST FRIEND, YONG, SHAN... NONE OF THEM SURVIVED.

.....
LOSS...


HE FELT SOMETHING THAT HE HAD NEVER FELT BEFORE IN HIS LIFE...
HE DID NOT FEEL ANY SENSE OF SATISFACTION FOR AVENGING HIS FAMILY...

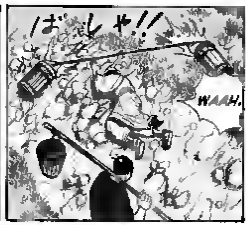
THEREFORE NOBODY CAN INFLUENCE YOU IN YOUR DECISION.
I FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR DETERMINATION TO AVENGE YOUR PARENTS EVEN IF IT MEANS LOSING YOUR LIFE
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A GIRL WHO LOVES YOUR PARENTS AND YOURSELF AND YOU'RE ONE WHO UPHOLDS THE DIGNITY AS A HAO
BUT...

Hmm

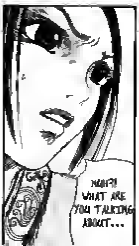

WAS THAT...
THAT GUY...

DO NOT FORGET THIS.
YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED THE VALUE OF OUR LIVES. ITS WEIGHT AND VALUE IS WHAT WE NEED TO CHERISH.
YOU MAY RISE
MEANWHILE, HANDAN CAPITAL OF ZHAO
ZHAO WENT TO SEE THE KING TO EXPRESS HIS DISSATISFACTION TOWARDS LI MU

HEY!

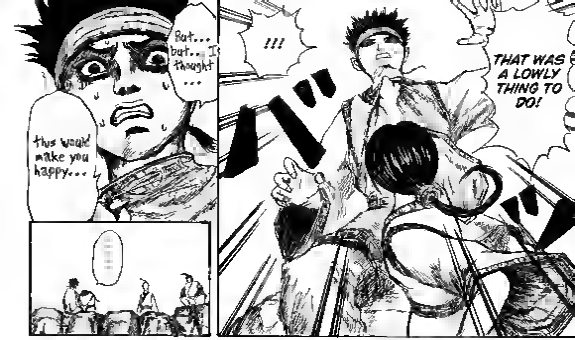

WAAH.

?!


HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...

UNLIKE YOU WHO DOES NOT VALUE YOUR LIFE, WE THINK THAT MAN HAS DONE WELL HERE.
IT SEEMS LIKE I MISJUDGED YOU. HOW DARE YOU REPORT THIS TO THE KING.

HAN YIN
ZHAO!
THE KING HAS RELIEVED LI MU OF HIS DUTIES HERE AT YAN MEN!
NOT ONLY THAT, IT SEEMS LIKE HE IS GOING TO BE PUNISHED AND INVESTIGATED!
LOOK! THAT COWARDLY GENERAL IS FINALLY GOING BACK TO THE CAPITAL
EXAMPLES OF [THOSE] WHO SHAMED OUR COUNTRY IN BATTLES BEING EXECUTED ARE [NOT RARE AT ALL


But... but... I thought ...
this would make you happy...
!!!
THAT WAS A LOWLY THING TO DO!

DON'T BE AFRAID, MY MEN! WE WILL SHOW THEM THE PROWESS OF THE GENERAL FROM THE CAPITAL!
THE NEW GENERAL IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF LI MU. HE ORDERED AN ALL-OUT ATTACK WHEN THE XIONG NUS ATTACKED
SIR, PLEASE WAIT. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LIGHT THE BEACONS IN THIS RAIN. MOREOVER, WE DO NOT KNOW THE SIZE OF THE XIONG NU'S ARMY. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO FIGHT THEM NOW.
ザァァ
HOWEVER, THIS ATTACK REVERSED EVERYTHING THAT WAS DONE AT YAN MEN.

HANDAN
YOUR MAJESTY
BAD NEWS FROM YAN MEN

Oh no!
We are being surrounded!

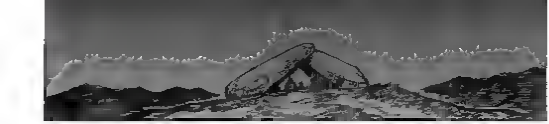
Enemies spotted at the back!
There's too many of them...

General!
Please give the order to retreat!

THE CASTLE HAS FALLEN AND THE XIONG NUS TOOK THE CHANCE TO RAID THE TOWNS NEARBY! MANY REFUGEES ARE RUNNING SOUTH.
THE TROOPS FROM YAN MEN ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED BY THE XIONG NUS!

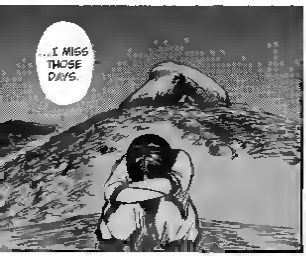
THE REMAINING SOLDIERS ARE FIGHTING BACK BUT IT SEEMS THAT THEY CAN'T HOLD FOR LONG.

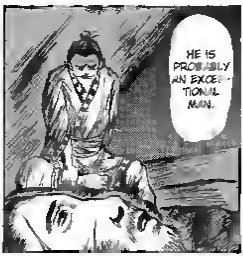
I GUESS IT'S ALMOST TIME, HAI YAN.
ZHAO ...

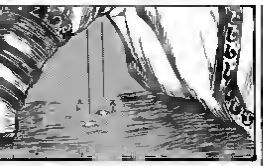


NORMALLY, HE MIGHT LOOK LIKE A CAREFREE MAN, BUT HE IS VERY CLEAR ON WHAT TO DO WHEN IT COMES TO DEFENDING.
OUR GOATS WERE SAFE. IT WAS LIKE A MIRACLE FOR YAN MEI.

IT FELT LIKE A DREAM WHEN LI MU WAS HERE.
HOW DO I PUT THIS...


...I MISS THOSE DAYS.


HE IS PROBABLY AN EXCEPTIONAL MAN.



.....

...WOOOO
WOOOO
WOOOO

AHHHHHHHH!!!

ARE YOU TRYING TO SCARE ME OFF MY FEET AGAIN?
OH MAN ...

AND I'M BACK HERE BECAUSE OF THIS... HOW IRONIC.
SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS SUFFERED A GREAT LOSS.

I'M SORRY YOU WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW MY COWARDLY ORDERS AGAIN
I'M BACK, HAI YIN

AT THE HARSHEST OF PLACES YAN MEN
WHEN ONE DIES ANOTHER WILL REPLACE HIM SOON AFTER
GENERALS OFTEN DO NOT LIVE LONG THERE
WUUWAAAAAA
UNTIL LI MU RETURNED FROM THEN ONWARDS, THE MIRACLE OF YAN MEN WAS ONCE AGAIN REVIVED AND THE XIONG NUS WERE NEVER ABLE TO LOOT ANYTHING AGAIN THE PEACEFUL DAYS CONTINUED ON---RECORDS OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN

[END]

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Thank you ~ ♪